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CLONMEL

Box II,
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SCHOOL OF ART
COMMITTEE.



THE usual weekly meeting of the committee was held on Wednesday, 10th May, 1871.

There were present James Gill, Esq., chairman; William Davis, Michael Kearney, O'Connell Hackett, and Thomas Scully, junr., M.D., Esqrs. Mr. P. J. Purcell, secretary, and Mr. E. A. Fraser, master, in attendance.

The previous minutes having been read and signed, the order of business was submitted. The following letter was read:

Science and Art Department, London, N.
3rd May, 1871.

CLONMEL SCHOOL OF ART.

SIR—I am directed to transmit to you the annexed extract from the Art Inspector's report on the above mentioned school, after his visit on the 18th February last.

I am also to enclose a copy of the form of application for the loan of drawings.—I am, &c.,

NORMAN MACLEOD, Assistant Secretary.

P. J. Purcell, Esq, School of Art, Clonmel.

EXTRACT.

“There is no division at present between the elementary and advanced groups. The lighting might be improved. The colour chosen for the walls is of a light salmon colour, by its extent and monotony unpleasing to the eye; this should be modified.

“Another amelioration would be that of replacing on these walls subjects of a more agreeable character than the life size specimens of anatomy, which are good for lecture purposes, but would pall on the eye after a

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time. The use of the chromo lithograph landscape is too general, and better specimens of colour are needed, whether as copies or still life properties."

Some discussion took place, and the committee being convinced of the desirability of the changes proposed, it was

Ordered—That the letter of the Science and Art Department be acknowledged, and that they be respectfully informed that the suggestions embodied therein shall have immediate attention; but that the latter part of the extract having reference to the improvement of copies having been verbally conveyed by the Inspector on the occasion of the visit alluded to, the committee had already taken action in the matter, having applied for and obtained a loan of water colour drawings from the department.

The above letter was ordered to be inserted on the minutes.

The following report of Messrs. Fraser and Purcell was then submitted:

Clonmel, School of Art,
10th of May, 1871.

Report of Messrs. Fraser and Purcell on the capabilities of the School of Art, and measures suggested for its improvement.

Clonmel School of Art.

GENTLEMEN—In accordance with your directions we have the honor to submit our report on the School of Art, and the steps we would recommend to be taken as a means of developing its resources and increasing its efficiency, when the action of the committee of such efficiency would attract more general attention to its capabilities for the study of art in its widest acceptance, and thus extend its sphere of

usefulness.

Our report may be divided into two parts. First, observations on the internal arrangements of the School, including a resume of its resources, and suggestions on the nature of the discipline and arrangement of school furniture and apparatus calculated to increase the teaching powers of the Art master and facilitate the progress of the study of Art in all its branches.

Second, the means desirable to be pursued for enlightening the public on the proper functions of a School of Art, whether in respect to the inexhaustible supply of materials for the study, the comprehensive principles on which such study may be pursued, or the extensive encouragement it receives by means of prizes and other awards, all these advantages bountifully meted out through the instrumentality of the science and art department.

We shall now proceed to give in detail the suggestions we wish to bring before you. First, in order as respects the internal arrangement of the School of Art, we find the school is now amply supplied with apparatus and examples, viz., a supply of black boards for elementary practice, with chalk, a splendid collection of outline patterns in every stage of proficiency, a large supply of shaded patterns of like subjects, and of lithographic studies of landscape, in pencil drawings, chalk and sepia, a varied assortment of chromo-lithographs as illustrations for water colours, drawings, and oil-paintings, a suitable selection of models, and a choice supply of casts from the most approved specimens. In addition to these, the school contains a large black board for teaching pur-

poses, text books, books on art, illustrations on the principles of colour ornamentation, &c., also diagrams for the study of architecture, mechanical and machine drawings, building constructions, &c.

As regards the arrangements we propose for utilising the above collection, we consider that in devising measures for this purpose their preservation should be carefully borne in mind and consequently, as a general rule, all books, patterns, &c., should be kept under lock and key, when not in use by the students. However it being desirable that the Art objects of the school should be in some measure accessible to the students and visitors, we would respectfully propose that string courses of three lines should be put up all round the room, and made use of as follows :

The upper line for ornamental purposes, such as the display of the photographs of Rome. The middle line for illustrations of the course of instruction by examples, from the simplest outlines to the more advanced shaded and coloured examples of ornament, landscape and the figure. The third or lower line to be used for diagrams of a technical character, such as architectural, machine and building construction, diagrams on color, &c.

A large supply of frames is in the school which could be used for the above purposes in displaying some of the coloured examples; while many of the patterns, diagrams, &c., are mounted and provided with loops for hanging them.

A supply of examples will always be in use by the students, according to their degree of advancement, and we recommend that a lockup press be constructed for each of the three classes

in which should be kept the drawing boards, apparatus, instruments, and examples while in use, all of each class separately and distinctly, each press to consist of a drawer at top for instruments and apparatus, and adequate spaces underneath for their drawing boards and patterns in use.

This arrangement would give a character of privacy to the classes in the school, and be ample security for the preservation of the drawings from mutilation.

In view of the above recommendations, we consider that the lock up press at present in use is quite sufficient for keeping the supply of examples, diagrams, and the finished drawings of the students, that the said lock up should be put in order so as to be under lock and key, and not to be in any way meddled with by the students, and in which all patterns should be carefully kept when not in use.

Arrangements should also be made to have the patterns classified, and labels on the divisions thereof, so as to save time when putting back or taking out any of them.

We would recommend that the glass cases at present in the Institute should be put up in the School of Art, and the following objects placed in them in an orderly manner.

1. Books on loan from the department.
2. Books the property of the school.
3. Objects of a fragile nature, such as the specimens of majolica and welgewood ware, shells, movable casts, &c.

Art objects on loan from the department, other than books, may not be of convenient size to be put in glass cases, and unless hung on the walls, should be put into the art master's lock-up press.

A second press exists in the school where drawing-boards, the property of the school, should be kept; also, all apparatus and instruments of a general nature, and contain drawers for a supply of stationery, &c., kept by the art master.

The school furniture is quite sufficient for all teaching purposes; but a suitable writing desk is required for the art master, with lock-up for pens, ink, paper, and official documents.

The retiring rooms should be laid out as properly understood for ladies.

A clock would be desirable.

A time-table should be put up in the school, detailing the occupation of the different classes—distinguishing the course of instruction for advanced and elementary students, with periodic changes, according to the development or diminution of the classes.

The front desks should be set apart for elementary students under black board instruction, and students under instruction in classes, and the desks further back for those retiring from black board instruction, and students engaged in solitary studies.

At the time of opening the classes, the porter should be in attendance, and have the key of the class presses, to give out the drawing boards, &c., to each student, and at the closing to put up all such articles carefully, and after being accustomed to such a duty, he will gradually become familiar with the requirements of each class.

The above arrangements being carried out, the school of art will at all times have a comfortable and tidy appearance, and can be kept clean and sightly, there being no unused objects lying about, the Art Master can exercise

a proper surveillance over the property of the school, and by the introduction of order and regularity, his teaching powers will be proportionately enlarged.

The second part of our report will consist of merely a few recommendations. We would recomurend that a small hand-book should be printed, setting forth the many advantages in the pursuit of art in a regular school of art, as distinguished from a mere drawing school, the stages of instruction as laid down by the science and art department, a short catalogue of the examples, models, casts, &c., list of books on art subjects, notice of the annual examination and national competition, the subjects in which prizes and certificates are given, also a statement of fees and classes, with a short sketch of the course of instruction for the attainment of special proficiency.

We would also recommend an exhibition of the students works at some favorable season, for instance, on the return of these at present in London.

Another matter we also consider deserves the consideration of the committee, viz., that of dividing the year into two equal divisions called sessions, so as to ensure a longer attendance of the students, and having laid down a scale of fees for these periods, a somewhat similar rate might be laid down for shorter periods. We have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obedient servants,

E. A. FRAZER.

P. J. PURCELL.

The committee were much gratified with the above reports, and ordered the latter one also to be inserted on the minutes.

It was also agreed that it would be desirable

to have Messrs. Frazer and Purcell's report printed, in order that the matters considered therein should be properly studied.

The chairman suggested that when getting the report printed a synopsis of its contents should be put in as an appendix.

After transacting some other business of a routine character, the meeting separated.

The following is a synopsis of the suggestions contained in the report:

DISCIPLINE AND INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS.

1. Supply of Examples and Objects.
2. Utilizing same, with due regard to preservation.
3. Three lines of string courses all round the walls, for display of patterns, &c.
4. Frames suitable for the above purpose, already on hands.
5. Lock-up press to be constructed for each of the three classes.
6. Lock-up press for keeping examples to be put in order.
7. Glass cases to be put up for preservation of Art Books, and Art Objects.
8. General lock-up press for boards, instruments and stationery.
9. Writing desk for Art Master required.
10. Retiring room for ladies to be laid out.
11. A clock required.
12. Time Table for the Classes.
13. Order of using the desks.
14. Porter to attend on the classes.
15. Effect of the above arrangements.

FOR INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC.

16. Handbook of School of Art.
17. Exhibitions of Students Works.
18. Sessions, and rate of Fees to be modified.

HACKETT BROS., Printers, Main-street, Clonmel.